

This is to inform you about the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment*, that will take place at our school in Term 1.

### *What is the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment?*

Children come to school with different levels of literacy and numeracy. Some are familiar with books, can recognise some letters, even write their name or count to ten, while others have not yet learned these skills.

Our Kindergarten teachers have always observed their new students and used different methods to find out what each child knows and can do so that they can plan and teach what their students need to learn next.

Our school takes part in *Best Start* developed by early learning experts in the Department of Education and Training. *Best Start* gives our teachers, and those teaching Kindergarten across New South Wales, a common set of high quality assessment tools and professional training.

We believe that *Best Start* will build on the strengths of our teachers and give your child an even better start to school.

### *Your child and the Best Start Kindergarten Assessment*

It is very important to emphasise that the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* is not a test. Its purpose is to help the teacher gather information to guide the teaching of your child.

The teacher will observe each child and use tasks, such as talking about a book that has been read, and record what their students know and can do. The teaching of your child will be based on the information gathered in these ways.

You will be given feedback about what your child's teacher has learned about your child, which you are welcome to discuss if you wish, in keeping with our usual practice.

### *What is being assessed?*

The teacher will look at your child's early reading and writing, their ability to communicate with others, and how they recognise and work with numbers, groups and patterns.

### *Telephone Interpreter Service*

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact me please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on telephone 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call me and will stay on the line to assist you with our conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

With all good wishes for the best possible start for your child's education.